

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 7-13, 17, 20-26, 30 and 33-39 have been withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention; the drawings have been objected to as now being in compliance with U.S. patent practice and procedure; the Title of the invention has been objected to as now being descriptive and Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14-16, 18, 19, 27-29, 31, 32 and 40-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Hatch et al. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14-16, 18, 19, 27-29, 31, 32 and 40-42 remain active in view of the cancellation of Claims 4, 7-13, 17, 20-26, 30 and 33-39, without prejudice.

The discussion granted by Examiner Renner is hereby acknowledged and is sincerely appreciated. Upon conclusion of the discussion, the Examiner suggested revisions of the language of the independent claims as noted above so as to more clearly define the structural limitations of the present invention found lacking in Hatch et al. While the Examiner indicated that a further review and an updated search of the prior art might be necessary before a determination as to allowability and entry of this amendment can be made, it was apparent that the amendments now made to the independent claims should be helpful in more clearly defining over Hatch et al. and the remaining references of record. The Examiner was also invited to contact Applicants' attorney should any additional changes be necessary by Examiner's Amendment to place the application in condition for allowance.

Considering first then the Examiner's objections to the drawings, it is to be noted that the last paragraph on page 15 of the application has now been amended so as to describe the elements in the drawings which form the basis of the Examiner's objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Considering next then the Examiner's objection to the Title, it is to be noted that Applicants have now suggested a revised title for closer compliance with U.S. patent practice and procedure.

Lastly considering then the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 14-16, 18, 19, 27-29, 31, 32 and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Hatch et al., it is to be noted that Claims 1, 2, 15, 28, 41 and 42 have now been amended so as to more clearly define over Hatch et al. More particularly, Applicants note that Hatch et al. merely discloses a conventional HGA structure wherein the spring section 26 of the load beam 16 is extended from the base plate 18 in a frontward direction with respect to the load beam 16. To the contrary, in accordance with the present invention as now claimed in Claims 1, 2, 15, 28, 41 and 42 and as illustrated in Figures 4 and 5, a leaf spring section 21c is extended from the fixing means 21b in a backward direction such that said at least one fixing means is located between said at least one leaf spring section and the top end section of said load beam. The importance of this feature is that, since the turning moment of the head slider is small, the impact resistance performance can be greatly improved.

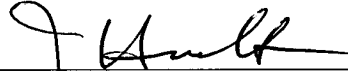
Insofar as neither Hatch et al. nor any of the remaining references of record teach or disclose the limitations of the claims as now amended, it is submitted that Claims 1, 2, 15, 28, 41 and 42 patentably define over the prior art and thus merit indication of allowability.

It is further submitted that the remaining dependent claims in the present application contain limitations not having any corresponding showing in Hatch et al. or any of the remaining references of record. In view of this and in view of the dependency of such claims upon the above-discussed independent claims of the present application, it is submitted that such dependent claims also merit indication of allowability.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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